Bruce Springsteen was born on September 23, 1949 in Freehold, New Jersey. He was raised in a working class home. His father, Doug, had trouble holding down a steady job and worked over time as a bus driver, millworker, and prison guard. His mother, Adele, held down a steady job as a secretary at an insurance office. Bruce and his father often fought while he was growing up. The cause of most fights was his guitar.

Springsteen first fell in love with rock and roll when he saw Elvis Presley perform on the Ed Sullivan show. On his 16th birthday, his mother took out a loan to buy him his first guitar, a Kent, for $60.

Bruce was a trouble maker, and often got in trouble in school. While in catholic elementary school, a nun placed him in a garbage can under her desk and told him, “that’s where you belong.” He even skipped his own high school graduation.

In 1967, Bruce was drafted for the Vietnam War, but his attitude once again took over and he deliberately failed the physical.

By the late 1960’s, Bruce had moved to Asbury Park on the Jersey Shore and was playing in many different bands trying to find his sound. It was around here that he found and forged friendships with musicians who would eventually form the E-Street Band. He also earned his nickname, “The Boss.”

After signing with Columbia Records, he released his first studio album in 1972, *Greetings from Asbury Park, NJ*. Though he was catching the attention of other musicians, and being compared to Bob Dylan, the sales were slow. Bruce decided to form the E-Street Band and they released their first album, *The Wild, The Innocent, & The E Street Shuffle*, which was highly popular with critics, but dismissed by the public.

Three years later, the band released *Born to Run* which peaked at Number 3 on Billboard, but rocketed him and the band into fame. Over the following years, Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street ban released many albums, most of which focused on current events. Each album had a tone and a message. He became known for writing songs that everyone could relate to.

In 1985, Bruce met and married actress Julianne Phillips. The marriage quickly began to fall apart, and Bruce began an affair with E-Street band backup singer, Patti Scialfa. Phillips filed for divorce in 1989. Patti and Bruce moved in together and had two children together before officially marrying in 1991. They had a third child in 1994.

Over the next decade, Bruce dissolved the band and moved his family to begin work on a solo career. Though there were a few hits, he never really found his nitch. In 2002, the band was back together and released their first studio album in 18 years, *The Rising*, which became both a critical and commercial success.

In 2008, Bruce came out as a huge political supporter of Barack Obama, and began to campaign for him. At his victory party, the first song played was, “The Rising.” In 2009 at an honoring of Springsteen at the Kennedy Center, Obama said, "I may be the President, but he is 'The Boss.'"

On June 18, 2011, E-Street band member and best friend, Clarence Clemens, “The Big Man” passed away. Springsteen gave the eulogy at his funeral. A touching and memorable speech.

In 2012, the band released their new album, *Wreckin’ Ball* and began another world tour, the first without the big man.

At age 63, Bruce continues to be one of the top artists. He is still known for his marathon concerts (many times going between 3-4 hours). *Rolling Stone* has named him as one of the top 8 artists of all time.